

REMARKS

Claim 1 relates to 5.1 sound systems and requires an amplifier circuit for amplifying up to 6 sound channels and a plurality of potentiometers for adjusting the volume of the sound channels.

Adams discloses a digital video system and makes only passing reference to possible use of output from Audio & Infrared Link 32 with a headphone. No disclosure is made regarding the construction of an earphone and line controller, an amplifying circuit and potentiometers all as required by claim 1.

Thompson discloses an auditory conditioning device that allows for a user to benefit by being able to control, through the use of potentiometers, the relative strengths of a sound channel for air conduction and a sound channel for bone conduction so as to increase the users learning ability. Thompson relates to improving a specific human hearing condition and has no relevant teaching regarding 5.1 sound and would not be considered by one working in the field of 5.1 sound systems. Combining the teaching of Adams and Thompson does not result in applicant's invention. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 and the claims which depend therefrom has been overcome. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 requires that the amplification circuit have first, second and third inputs from the 5.1 sound channel input port and provide individual outputs to first, second and third potentiometers located in the line controller. As previously discussed with regard to claim 1, Adams makes only passing reference to the use of a headphone and includes no disclosure regarding a line controller, audio amplifier circuit are the construction of same. Thompson discloses an auditory conditioning device intended for use in improving a certain human hearing condition and is not believed to be relevant to 5.1 sound systems. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 and the claims which depend therefrom are in condition

for allowance for this separate and independent reason. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 7 require that the power amplifier have a 5.1 sound channel signal output port for connecting to other corresponding function devices. FIG 1 shows a channel signal output port 35 for connecting to other corresponding function devices, i.e., the channel power amplifier shown above 3 in FIG 1. FIG. 3 also shows connections at C7.4, C7.5 and C7.6 for this purpose. The cited portion of Adams is to the final individual sound signal outputs and not to the 5.1 sound channel signal output port for connection to other corresponding function devices. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 2 has been overcome for this separate and independent reasons. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 8 require a 7-pin plug mating a 7-pin socket on a connection end of the line controller. Huang is cited regarding claim 4 but appears to be more applicable to claim 3. Huang teaches the use of a 7 pin connector for driving multiple speakers. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3 and 8 are allowable because it is dependent on an allowable base claim. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 requires that the amplification circuit include an IC and that the IC be connected to an audio bypass circuit and a coupling capacitor. Hoshino shows an audio bypass circuit and a coupling capacitor in an environment unrelated to 5.1 sound systems. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 4 has been overcome for this separate and independent reasons. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 requires a switch for switching between CD and DVD. Adams and Thompson in view of Scribner are cited. Adams does not disclose a line controller. Thompson does not disclose switching between CD and DVD. Scribner discloses an arrangement for selecting a media source in an environment of a vehicular audio/visual

system having multiple simultaneous users and is not believed to apply. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 5 has been overcome for this separate and independent reasons. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 requires that the power amplifier accept a converted 5.1 sound track signal and provide corresponding audio signals to the line controller. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is in condition for allowance for this separate and independent reason. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated consideration of the United States and foreign patents cited by applicant. By the lack of application of these references and others like them within the classes or subclasses searched, the Examiner apparently recognizes the clear patentability of the present invention over any of these references.

Therefore, since the claims of the present application have been shown to include limitations directed to the features of applicant's 5.1 Channel Digital Surround Earphone which are neither shown, described, taught, nor alluded to in any of the references cited by the Examiner and by the applicant, whether those references are taken singly or in any combination, the Examiner is requested to allow claims 1-9, as amended, of the present application and to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Congyu Yan



Alan D. Kamrath, Reg. No. 28,227
NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A.
Attorneys for Applicant
900 Second Avenue South, Suite 820
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Tel: (612) 392-7306
Fax: (612) 349-6556

Dated: January 11, 2007.